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NOTES AND NEWS.

EDITED BY D. A. ROTHROCK, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

Dr. F. C. FERRY, dean of Williams College and professor of mathematics, has been elected president of Hamilton College.

Professor R. G. D. RICHARDSON and Assistant Professor C. H. CURRIER, of Brown University, will spend the summer at the University of Chicago in attendance upon the summer session.

Dr. PAULINE SPERRY, of Smith College, will teach mathematics at the University of California summer session.

Dr. HENRY BLUMBERG, University of Nebraska, and Dr. G. A. PFEIFFER, Princeton University, have been elected associate editors of the Annals of Mathematics.

Mr. WALTER C. WRIGHT, consulting actuary and accountant, died at his home in Medford, Mass., on April 23. He was a charter member of the Association.

Professor EDWIN B. WILSON, of the department of mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been made head of the department of Physics in the same institution.

Professor W. E. EDINGTON, of the University of New Mexico, has been appointed instructor in mathematics at the University of Illinois.

Dr. J. H. WEAVER, head of the department of mathematics in the West Chester, Pennsylvania, High School, has been appointed instructor in mathematics at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Dr. NATHAN ALTSCHILLER, instructor in mathematics at the University of Oklahoma, has been promoted to an assistant professorship.

Miss MARY C. SUFFA, non-resident fellow of Brown University, resident at the University of Chicago, has been appointed instructor in mathematics at the Chicago Latin School.

Professor FLORIAN CAJORI will spend the latter part of the summer in Chicago, engaged in historical research. He will then proceed to Cleveland to attend the meetings of the Society and the Association.

Dr. H. R. KINGSTON, lecturer in mathematics at the University of Manitoba, spent several weeks at the University of Chicago for reading and research after the close of the spring session at Winnipeg.

Dr. W. L. HART, Benjamin Peirce instructor at Harvard University, has joined the officers' reserve training camp at Fort Sheridan.

Miss FLORA LESTOURGEON, formerly instructor at Beaver College, Pennsylvania, has just received the doctorate at the University of Chicago.

Mr. T. R. HOLLCROFT has been appointed instructor in mathematics at Columbia University.

At Brown University Professor R. C. ARCHIBALD has been promoted to an associate professorship of pure mathematics.

Assistant Professor J. F. REILLY has been promoted to an associate professorship of mathematics at the State University of Iowa.

Professors R. C. ARCHIBALD, Brown University, F. MORLEY, Johns Hopkins University and T. LEVI-CIVITA, University of Padua, Italy, have been elected Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. JOSEPH LIPKA and Mr. F. B. HITCHCOCK have been promoted from instructors to assistant professorships of mathematics.

At Washington University Professor C. A. WALDO has retired from active service, and Professor W. H. ROEVER will attend the summer session at the University of Chicago.

Mr. T. McN. SIMPSON, JR., for a number of years in charge of mathematics at Converse College, Spartenburg, S. C., has been appointed instructor in mathematics at the University of Texas. Mr. K. W. LAMSON has been appointed instructor in mathematics at Columbia University. Mr. Simpson and Mr. Lamson have just finished their work for the doctorate at the University of Chicago.

The June issue of the *Annals of Mathematics* has appeared containing the following papers: "Fermat's last theorem and the origin and nature of the theory of algebraic numbers," by L. E. DICKSON; "The modified remainders obtained in finding the highest common factor of two polynomials," by A. J. PELL and R. L. GORDON; "Nomograms of adjustment," by L. I. HEWES; "Closed algebraic correspondences," by A. A. BENNETT; "The intersections of a straight line and hyperquadric," by J. L. COOLIDGE; "The relation between the zeros of a solution of a linear homogeneous differential equation and those of its derivative," by W. B. FITE; "Conjugate planar nets with equal invariants," by L. P. EISENHART. Beginning with the next volume, the *Annals* will be enlarged by 100 pages per volume, and will be in part supported by the Mathematical Association of America. The increase in the size of the volume will be devoted to historical and expository articles in so far as suitable material of this kind is available. The paper by Professor DICKSON in the present issue is an important contribution along this line.

The number of new subscribers to the *Annals of Mathematics* under the terms of cooperation with the Association is now (June 15) 338. The opportunity is still open at the half rate to members of the Association and to applicants for membership.

The National Research Council, formed by the National Academy of Science at the request of the President of the United States, is intended to bring into co-operation governmental, educational, industrial, and other research organizations, with the object of developing national resources and making them available. The chairman of the Council is Dr. George E. Hale, formerly Director of the Yerkes Observatory. Committees have been appointed, eighteen in number, representing all the interests included in the work of the Council. The chairmen

of the committees representing mathematics and physics are Professors E. H. MOORE and R. A. MILLIKAN, respectively, both of the University of Chicago. Professor Millikan has been on duty in Washington for several months.

The *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society*, Vol. 18, No. 2, contains the following papers: "Differential equations and implicit functions in infinitely many variables," by W. L. HART; "On the equivalence of écart and voisinage," by E. W. CHITTENDEN; "On the theory of associative division algebra," by Miss OLIVE C. HAZLETT; "The converse of the theorem concerning the division of a plane by an open curve," by J. R. KLINE; "On the conformal mapping of curvilinear angles," by G. A. PFEIFFER; "Dynamical systems with two degrees of freedom," by G. D. BIRKHOFF.

The Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago has voted to permit, upon recommendation by the head of a department, the attendance of doctors of philosophy of other universities as well as of the University of Chicago as guests of the University with the privilege of attending seminars and of carrying on research in the laboratories and libraries. For these privileges no charge will be made except for laboratory supplies and a nominal laboratory fee when laboratory work is to be done. This plan will be in operation beginning the summer session 1917, and some doctors in the department of mathematics are already taking advantage of the opportunity.

Twenty-seven members of the American Mathematical Society attended the regular meeting held at Columbia University on Saturday, April 28, at which twenty-six papers were presented. Professor L. P. EISENHART was reëlected a member of the editorial committee of the *Transactions*, and a special committee was appointed to make arrangements for the summer meeting of the Society at Cleveland, September 4–5, 1917. This will be the twenty-fourth summer meeting of the Society, and will be held at Adelbert College and Case School of Applied Science. The meeting will be followed by the second summer meeting of the Mathematical Association of America, on September 6–7.

The following mathematical papers were presented at the February and March meetings of the Paris Academy of Sciences: "The theory of convergence of Fourier's series," by W. H. YOUNG; "A simple solution of Mathieu's problem," by M. MESNAGER; "Hyperfuchsian functions and systems of total differentia' equations," by G. GIRAUD; "Characteristic number and radius of curvature,' by E. COTTON; "*Left* algebraic curves," by R. DE BALLORE; "The approximate value of some definite integrals," by M. HARNY; "A new table of divisors of numbers," by E. LEBON; "The reduction of binary forms of any degree," by G. JULIA; "Hyperfuchsian functions" (second paper), by G. GIRAUD; "The Abelian sum of conical volumes," by A. BUHL; "Deformable hyper-surfaces in a real Euclidean space of $n > 3$ dimensions," by E. BOMPIANI; "Summation of ultra spherical sines," by E. KOGBETLIANTZ.

Professor A. R. CRATHORNE, of the University of Illinois, was the leading speaker at the mathematics section of the fourteenth annual conference of high schools of Kansas held at the University of Kansas on March 16, 1917. The paper

by Professor CRATHORNE dealt with the plans of the Committee on Mathematical Requirements of the Mathematical Association of America and of allied organizations, and was therefore of great interest to all members of the Kansas Section of the Association.

At the meeting of the Philosophical Society of Cambridge, February 5, the following mathematical papers were presented: "The direct solution of the quadratic and cubic binomial congruences with prime moduli," by H. C. POCKLINGTON; "The hydrodynamics of relativity," by C. E. WEATHERBURN; "The character of the electric potential in electromagnetics," by R. HARGREAVES; "The fifth book of Euclid's elements," by Dr. M. J. M. HILL.

The *Teachers College Record*, May, 1917, contains a very interesting and important discussion of "Mathematics in the training for citizenship," by Professor DAVID EUGENE SMITH. This is an address that was delivered before the faculty of Teachers College, March 8, 1917. Professor Smith presents six very important reasons for the study of mathematics. These stated briefly are: (1) Mathematics is one of the small group of subjects that are linked up with a large number of branches of human knowledge; (2) it possesses a high value as a mental discipline; (3) it enables every one to experience the "power of thought"; (4) mathematics is one of the eternal verities; (5) it makes one conscious of his position in the universe about him; (6) its study gives humanity a religious sense that cannot be fully developed without it.

One of the charter members of the Association, Mr. H. S. CARD, assistant professor of mathematics and physics in Lombard College, Galesburg, Illinois, is now "doing his bit" as a sergeant in the First Regiment, U. S. Engineers. This regiment is for the present stationed at Washington Barracks, D. C., having only recently returned from service on the Mexican border.

It is desired that all members of the Association who are serving their country in connection with the war should be listed in this column of Notes and News. Special space will be devoted to this purpose in the September issue and it is hoped that all readers of the MONTHLY will take it upon themselves to report such information to the news editor, Professor D. A. ROTHROCK, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Professor KARPINSKI writes that his statement in the January MONTHLY with reference to the first appearance of the decimal point: "But all standard authorities on this subject agree that the point or comma was first used by the German Pitiscus in the 1612 edition of his trigonometry," might be replaced with more precision by the statement: "Such standard authorities as Cantor, Tropfke, and D. E. Smith in his monograph on decimal fractions, mention explicitly the appearance in print of the decimal point in the Tables of the 1608 or 1612 edition of the Trigonometry by Pitiscus. Smith cites the 1612 edition which is available in the New York Public Library; and the first of three references made by Cantor to the use of the point by Pitiscus (*Vorlesungen über Geschichte der Mathematik*, Vol. II, second edition, 1900, p. 604; see also pages 619 and 733) cites only the 1612 edition, while the 1608 edition is cited in the other passages.